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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
TO THE
Hexham Urban District Council
FOR THE
Year ended 31st December, 1943,
BY
DR. G. PATTON.



HEXHAM:
R. ROBSON & SONS, THE ABBEY PRESS, PRIESTPOPPLE.


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ANNUAL REPORT
 OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
 TO THE
HEXHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.
 FOR THE
YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1943.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
 HEXHAM.

To the Chairman and Members of the Hexham Urban District Council :—

GENTLEMEN—

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health, for the year ending 31st December, 1943.

This report does not take the usual form, being condensed in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, and is mainly statistical.

I am, Gentlemen,
 Your obedient servant,
 G. PATTON,
 Medical Officer of Health.

**Sec.—A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS
 OF THE AREA.**

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Area in Acres | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5,926 |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|

SOCIAL CONDITIONS, INCLUDING INDUSTRIES CARRIED ON
 IN THE AREA.

No large industries ; nothing affecting Public Health.

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS.

| | | TOTAL. | | M. | | F. |
|--------------|-----|--------|-----|----|-----|----|
| Legitimate | ... | 130 | ... | 71 | ... | 59 |
| Illegitimate | ... | 8 | ... | 3 | ... | 5 |

STILL BIRTHS.

| | | TOTAL. | | M. | | F. |
|--------------|-----|--------|-----|----|-----|----|
| Legitimate | ... | 5 | ... | 3 | ... | 2 |
| Illegitimate | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | — |

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

| | | | | Rate per 1,000. | | |
|---------|---------------------------------|-----|-----|-----------------|-----------------------|------|
| | | | | Total Deaths | (Live & Still Births) | |
| No. 29. | Puer. and post-abortion. sepsis | | | Nil. | ... | Nil. |
| No. 30. | Other maternal causes | ... | | Nil. | ... | Nil. |
| | TOTAL | ... | ... | Nil. | ... | Nil. |

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

| | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| All Infants per 1,000 Live Births | ... | ... | ... | 50.7 |
| Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births | | | | 30.7 |
| Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births | | | | 375.0 |
| Deaths from Cancer (all ages) | ... | ... | ... | 20 |
| Deaths from Measles (all ages) | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) | | ... | ... | Nil. |
| Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) | | | ... | 1 |

**DEATHS.—Age Groups in each Ward, also Adult, Infant
and Uncertified Deaths.**

| WARDS. | | | Gilesgate. | Leazes. | Priestpottle. | Hencotes. | TOTAL. | |
|---------------------|-----|-----|------------|---------|---------------|-----------|--------|-------|
| AGE GROUPS :— | | | | | | | | |
| 0—1 | ... | | 3 | 1 | 3 | — | 7 | |
| 1—2 | ... | | — | — | — | — | — | |
| 2—5 | ... | | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | |
| 5—15 | ... | | — | — | 2 | — | 2 | |
| 15—25 | ... | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | |
| 25—45 | ... | | 4 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 17 | |
| 45—65 | ... | | 9 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 25 | |
| 65—75 | ... | | 8 | 10 | 10 | 11 | 39 | |
| Over 75 | ... | | 12 | 8 | 10 | 11 | 41 | |
| Totals all ages ... | | | 37 | 26 | 42 | 31 | 136 | |
| Uncert. | M. | ... | 1 | — | 2 | 2 | 5 | |
| | F. | ... | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | 3 | |
| Infant | M. | ... | 2 | 1 | 1 | — | 4 | } 136 |
| | F. | ... | 1 | — | 2 | — | 3 | |
| Adult | M. | ... | 18 | 11 | 18 | 10 | 57 | |
| | F. | ... | 16 | 14 | 21 | 21 | 72 | |

The chief causes of Death are set out in the following Tables :—

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | | | | | | M. | F. |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Typhoid and Parat. Fevers | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| Cerebro-Spinal Fever | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| Scarlet Fever | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| Whooping Cough | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| Diphtheria | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| Tub. of resp. system | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 3 |
| Other forms of Tuberculosis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| Syphilitic Diseases | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| Influenza | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 3 |
| Measles | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | 1 |
| Ac. polio-myel. and polio-enceph | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| Ac. inf. enceph | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| Cancer of buc. and oesoph (M) uterus (F) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 |
| Cancer of stomach and duodenum | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 |
| Cancer of breast | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | 1 |
| Cancer of all other sites | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 10 |
| Diabetes | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 |
| Intra-cran. vasc. lesions | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 | 7 |
| Heart Disease | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 19 | 19 |
| Other dis. of circ. system | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 1 |
| Bronchitis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 3 |
| Pneumonia | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | 3 |
| Other resp. dis. ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 |
| Ulcer of stomach or duodenum | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | — |
| Diarrhoea under 2 years | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | 1 |
| Apendicitis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | 1 |
| Other digestive dis. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 1 |
| Nephritis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 | 3 |
| Puer. and post-abort. sepsis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| Other maternal causes | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| Premature Birth | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 1 |
| Con. mal. birth inj. infant dis. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | 1 |
| Suicide | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | 2 |
| Road Traffic Accident | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| Other violent causes | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | — |
| All other causes | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 8 |
| | | | | | | 61 | 75 |
| TOTAL | | | | | | 136 | |

INFANT MORTALITY.—There were 7 deaths of infants under one year as compared with 8 in 1942. The Infant Mortality Rate is 50.7 per thousand births compared with 64.5 for 1942.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1943.

| NOTIFIABLE DISEASE. | At all Ages. | Under 1. | 1 to 2. | 2 to 5. | 5 to 15. | 15 to 25. | 25 to 45. | 45 to 65. | 65 & upward |
|---------------------------|--------------|----------|---------|---------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Smallpox ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 11 | ... | 2 | ... | ... |
| Scarlet Fever ... | 17 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| Diphtheria ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Enteric Fever ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Puerperal Pyrexia ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Pneumonia ... | 18 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 3 | 8 | 3 | 3 |
| Cerebro-Spinal Fever ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... |
| Erysipelas ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Measles ... | 116 | 1 | 9 | 43 | 63 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Whooping Cough ... | 7 | ... | ... | 2 | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Malaria ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| TOTALS ... | 163 | 1 | 9 | 50 | 81 | 4 | 10 | 5 | 3 |

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.—There were no cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum during the year under review.

TUBERCULOSIS.—New cases and Mortality during 1943 :—

| Age periods | New Cases | | | | Nett Deaths in Hexham Urban District | | | |
|-------------|-----------|----|------------|----|--------------------------------------|----|------------|----|
| | Pulmonary | | Non. Pulm. | | Pulmonary | | Non. Pulm. | |
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| 0—1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1—5 | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| 5—15 | 1 | 2 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| 15—25 | 1 | 3 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| 25—35 | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| 35—45 | 2 | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| 45—55 | 1 | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| 55—65 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 65 & over | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| TOTALS | 6 | 9 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | — | — |

| | | Cases Notified | Deaths |
|-----------------------|-----|----------------|--------|
| Gilesgate Ward ... | ... | 8 | 1 |
| Leazes Ward ... | ... | 2 | 2 |
| Priestpottle Ward ... | ... | 7 | 1 |
| Hencotes Ward ... | ... | — | — |
| | | 17 | 4 |

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Does not differ in essentials from the report of the previous year.

Diphtheria Immunisation, 1943.

| | Total number of Children Immunised during 1943 | Pre-School Children | School Children |
|---|--|---------------------|-----------------|
| Diphtheria Immunisation | 230 | 138 | 92 |
| Percentage Immunised at 31st December, 1943 | — | 75% | 93·0% |

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

VISITS AND INSPECTIONS.

| | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Bakehouse Inspections | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 30 |
| Common Lodging Houses | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| Choked Drains | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 37 |
| Disinfection at Schools | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Disinfestation of Rats | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 67 |
| Evacuation Visits | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9 |
| Farm Inspections | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 69 |
| Factories and Workplaces | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 33 |
| Filthy Houses—Visits and Re-Visits | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 25 |
| Housing Inspections | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11 |
| Housing Re-Visits | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| House-to-House Inspections | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 58 |
| House-to-House Re-Visits | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 100 |
| Infectious Disease Visits | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 27 |
| Infectious Disease Re-Visits | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 61 |
| Knackers' Yard | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 21 |
| Markets and Marts | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 36 |
| Milk Shops, Dairies, etc. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 76 |
| Military Billets Inspections | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 59 |
| New Drainage Visits | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| New Drainage Re-Visits | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 25 |
| Public Health Visits | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 90 |
| Public Health Re-Visits | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 109 |
| Reconstructed Drainage Visits | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9 |
| Reconstructed Drainage Re-Visits | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 25 |
| Slaughter House | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 24 |
| Shops, Foodstores, etc. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 332 |
| Stables | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 35 |
| Various Nuisance Visits | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 42 |
| Verminous Houses and Re-Visits | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 19 |
| Water Supply (not Housing) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Total | | | | | | | 1,470 |

SUMMARY OF WORK EFFECTED, 1943.

| | Hexham Urban District. Inspector—W. M. ALDER. | After Letter or Interview | After Informal Notice | After Statutory Notice | Total |
|--------------------------|--|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-------|
| Sanitary Conveniences | Privies abolished ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 |
| | „ repaired ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | Privy ashpits abolished ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | „ „ roofed or repaired ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | Pail-closets abolished ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | Water closets provided ... | 16 | 2 | ... | 18 |
| | „ „ repaired ... | 14 | 14 | ... | 28 |
| | Sanitary bins provided ... | 3 | 2 | ... | 5 |
| | „ „ renewed ... | 8 | 1 | ... | 9 |
| Drainage | New drains constructed ... | 10 | ... | ... | 10 |
| | Drains repaired or reconstructed ... | 9 | 4 | ... | 13 |
| | Additional gullies provided ... | 11 | 1 | ... | 12 |
| | Old gullies replaced... .. | 4 | ... | ... | 4 |
| | Scullery sinks provided ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 |
| | „ waste pipes repaired ... | 6 | 3 | ... | 9 |
| | „ „ trapped ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 |
| | Yards repaired or reconstructed | 1 | ... | ... | 1 |
| Water supply | Sources closed or discontinued, — | No. of houses affected, — | | | — |
| | New service provided ... | 1 | „ | „ | 1 |

D.—HOUSING.

HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR 1943.

| | | With State Unaided Assistance. | TOTAL. |
|-----|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------|
| (a) | By Local Authority ... | — | — |
| (b) | By other Bodies or Persons ... | — | — |

FOOD INSPECTION, 1943.

| UNSOUND FOOD. | Surrendered | Seized | Legal Pro- ceedings |
|---------------------------------|-------------|--------|---------------------------|
| | st. lbs. | | |
| Beef (home-killed) ... | 4335 4½ | — | — |
| „ (Imported) ... | — — | — | — |
| Mutton (home-killed) ... | 317 8½ | — | — |
| „ (Imported) ... | — — | — | — |
| Pork ... | 52 1 | — | — |
| Bacon ... | 5 0½ | — | — |
| Fruit (dried) ... | 10 10 | — | — |
| Other Foods ... | 90 9½ | — | — |
| Canned Foods (No. of tins 5161) | 370 2¼ | — | — |
| TOTAL ... | 5181 8¼ | | |

URBAN DISTRICT OF HEXHAM, 1943.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES.Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or
Inspectors of Nuisances.

| Premises (1) | Number of | | |
|--|--------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | Inspections (2) | Written Notices (3) | Occupiers Prosecuted (4) |
| Factories (including Laundries) | 19 | 2 | — |
| Workplaces (other than Out- workers' premises) | 14 | — | — |
| TOTAL | 33 | 2 | — |

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

| Particulars. (1) | No. of Defects. | | | Number of defects in respect of which Prose- cutions were instituted (5) |
|--|-----------------|------------------|--|--|
| | Found. (2) | Remedied. (3) | Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4) | |
| Want of cleanliness (S.1) | 5 | 5 | ... | ... |
| Overcrowding (S.2) | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Inadequate ventilation (S.4) | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Sanitary { insufficient | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Conveniences { unsuitable, defective | 3 | 3 | ... | ... |
| (S.7) { not separate for sexes | 1 | 1 | ... | ... |
| Other offences | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| (Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Work- shops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937). | | | | |
| Total | 9 | 9 | ... | ... |

MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1926.

Section 6 (1) and (4).

| | | |
|---|--------|-----|
| Number of Cowkeepers (registered) in district | ... | 26 |
| Approximate number of cows kept | ... .. | 470 |

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936.

| | |
|---|---|
| Supplementary Licences Granted (Pasteurised Milk) | 3 |
|---|---|

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--------|---|
| Renewals of Licence to Slaughter | ... .. | 9 |
| New Licences Granted. | ... .. | 1 |

DISINFECTION.

| | | |
|--|--------|----|
| Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis | ... .. | — |
| Cases of Scarlet Fever | ... .. | 18 |
| „ „ Tuberculosis | ... .. | 8 |
| „ „ Cancer | ... .. | — |
| „ „ Diphtheria | ... .. | 3 |
| „ „ Erysipelas | ... .. | 2 |
| „ „ Chicken Pox | ... .. | — |
| School Rooms and Outbuildings, etc. | ... .. | 3 |
| Library Books destroyed | ... .. | 5 |
| Other Rooms and Outbuildings, etc. | ... .. | 4 |
| Small Articles disinfected | ... .. | 22 |
| Mattresses and Eiderdowns | ... .. | 9 |
| Pillows | ... .. | 7 |
| Blankets | ... .. | 26 |
| Bedding destroyed (lots) | ... .. | 4 |
| Other Bedding, Beds, etc., when required | ... .. | 2 |
| Vehicles | ... .. | 3 |

